श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सभापति जी, माननीय सदस्य श्री बालकवि बैरागी जी के प्रश्न के दो स्वरूप हैं एक तो पदों की रिक्तियों के भरने के संबंध में है और दूसरा कार्यक्रमों के बारे में है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को बताना चाहूंगा कि हम पीटीवी के झूठ वगैरह को खोलने के लिए कई कार्यक्रम चलाते हैं। एक कार्यक्रम 'पीटीवी का सच' है जो दूरदर्शन पर आता है। यह काफी लोकप्रिय प्रोग्राम है और दूसरा प्रोग्राम 'पाकिस्तानी रिपोर्टर' है। यह भी काफी लोकप्रिय प्रोग्राम है। जहां तक पदों की रिक्ति के बारे में है, मैं एक बात बताना चाहूंगा कि कश्मीर की, विशेषकर श्रीनगर की स्थिति से सदन अवगत है। मैं बहुत गर्व के साथ कहना चाहुंगा कि वहां पर दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी के पदाधिकारयों ने मिलिटेंट्स के तमाम दवाब और थ्रेट को सहते हुए कार्यक्रम को चलाने की कोशिश की है। यह बहुत गर्व की बात है और मैं इसके लिए उनकी हृदय से बहुत सराहना करना चाहता हूं। कुछ पद खाली जरूर हैं, पदों को भरने के संबंध में कठिनाइयां आती हैं। हम सब वहां की परिस्थितियों से परिचित हैं, थोड़ा व्यापक विस्तार करना पड़ेगा। बैरागी जी ने मुझे इन चिंताओं को बताया है, हम इसकी कोशिश कर रहे हैं और जल्दी-जल्दी पूरा करने की कोशिश करेंगे।

Incentives for units in SEZ

184. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend additional incentives for setting up of units in the Special Economic Zones through a five year exemption from Provident Fund/Employees State Insurance liabilities for the entrepreneurs;

(b) whether it is also proposed to relax labour laws and trade union Acts to attain higher and committed productivity;and

(c) whether Government expect that these incentives would spur growth of the existing SEZs and also the new ones coming up especially in Padubidri in Dakshina Kannada region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on theTable of the House.

Statement

(a) The Special Economic Zones (SEZs) scheme aims to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for export production

with a simplified procedural framework. To achieve this objective, a package of incentives/facilities supported by a singly window clearance mechanism at the zone level have been put in place. Towards this direction, recently the Ministry of Labour has decided that in respect of SEZs, the State Government may apply for exemption to the Central Government under Section 16(2) of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, from the applicability of the provisions of the Act to SEZ for 5 years. The decision shall be taken on case-to-case basis. In respect of the ESI Act, 1948, the State Government, being the appropriate Government, may take a decision as per the powers provided under the Act.

(b) Normal labour laws which are enforced by the State Governments are equally applicable to Special Economic Zones. Exemption if any made under the provisions of labour laws will also apply to SEZs.

(c) The incentives/facilities offered to the SEZs would help in promoting exports from the existing SEZs and also from SEZs approved for establishment in the country, including Karnataka.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Sir, the reply to part(a) of my question is all right. But, the reply to part(b) of my question is not clear. I would like to know from the Government whether there is a proposal to permit women employees in SEZs to work in nightshifts,and, in case it is so, whether these women employees will be given full protection.

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, the normal labour laws are applied to the SEZs, and, these are enforced by the State Governments. Now, Sir, some States have declared the SEZ zones to be public-utility zones. The powers have been delegated from the Labour Commissioner to the Development Commissioner. But, Sir, for exemption, the State Government has to apply under Section 16(2) of the Provident Fund Act, and each case will be considered on its own merit. So far as the other Act is concerned, the ESI Act, there the State Government is the authority to enforce it, and they may consider granting exemption as and when they come. But uniform labour laws are applied to all SEZ zones.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Sir, is there any proposal to amend the Labour Act to permit the termination of workers in SEZ Units by giving a notice of 15 days? Is there any proposal like this?

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, as ofnow, no application has been received from any State Government under Section 16(2). (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Sir, Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. It is all right. You have already put your two supplementaries....(*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister because he has said that...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your have already put your two supplementaries ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Rama Shanker Kaushik.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: उपसभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र और निर्यात के उद्योग को बढ़ाने की बात कही है। उसमें ऐसे उद्योगों को छूट प्रदान करने की जो बात कही गई है उससे ऐसा लगता है कि जो श्रमिकों के हित हैं या श्रमिकों को जो सुविधाएं मिलती हैं केवल उसमें कटौती करने की बात कही गई है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि श्रमिकों की सुविधाओं को कम करने की अपेक्षा क्या सरकार जो शुल्क वगैरह या उत्पादन का जो शुल्क लिया जाता है अथवा जो अन्य प्रकार के टैक्स सरकार को मिलते हैं, उनमें छूट प्रदान करने की बात सोचेगी या श्रमिकों के हितों को ही खत्म करने की बात सोचेगी?

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir it is always the endeavour of the Government to see that the workers are not, in any way, prejudiced against. But, as I said, unifirm labour laws aply to all SEZ zones, and it is for the State Government to apply for exemption. As and when these applications come, we shall consider. But, up to now, no such application has come.

SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Sir, in part(c) of the answer, it is said, "The incentives/facilities offered to the Special Economic Zones would help in promoting exports from the existing SEZs and also from SEZs approved for establishment in the country, including Karnataka." My specific question is this. Three years back, the status of Special Economic Zone was granted to Hasan district. My question is: What are the incentives or the facilities that have been provided by the Central Government? After acquiring 2500 acres of land, no factory has come up so far. What is the reason? So, I would like to know whether the Central Government would take up the issue. Will it help to establish Special Economic zones in *Hasan*?

SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE: Sir, so far as the SEZs are concerned, they are either set up by the State Government or by the private sector or by the joint sector concerns. The approval is granted by the Central Government. As of now, eight export processing zones have been granted the status of SEZs and twenty-three more have been approved. Sir, so far as the incentives are concerned, there are a number of incentives which are given. First of all, duty free imports, domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZs and SEZ units; extension of income tax benefits under Section 80/ A of the Income Tax Act. Hundred per cent income tax exemption for SEZ units under Section 10A for the first five years, 50 per cent for two years thereafter, and not exceeding 50 per cent of the ploughed back profit for the next three years. Hundred per cent income tax exemption for three consecutive years and 50 per cent for the next two years to offshore banking units set up in Special Economic Zones; external commercial borrowings for SEZ units upto $ 500 million in a year without any maturity restrictions through recognized banking channels. Permission to carry forward losses and income tax exemption to the extent of 50 per cent of the ploughed back profits in the SEZ units; treating supplies from domestic tariff area to SEZ at par with physicial exports from the purpose of income tax exemption. Exemption from Central Sales Tax on sales made from domestic tariff area to SEZ; exemption from service tax to SEZ units and developers them. These are some of the exemptions and incentives that are being given.

ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE CHAIRMAN WELCOMING THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM INDONESIA

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make:—

We have with us, seated in the special box, members of a parliamentary delegation from Indonesia, currently on a visit to our country, under the distinguished leaders of his excellency, Mr. Muhaimin Iskandar, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Indonesia.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation, and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country